

Application No. 10/791,755

Attorney Docket 016907-1610

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 29, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 2-24 were pending in the application. No claims have been amended, claims 2-6 and 16-24 have been canceled, and new claims 25-27 have been added. Therefore, claims 7-15 and 25-27 are pending in the application and presented for reconsideration.

This amendment adds and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants thank the examiner for indicating that claims 7-15 are allowed and that claims 5, 18, and 24 contain allowable subject matter. New claims 25-27 correspond, respectively, to claims 5, 18, and 24 written in independent form, which have been canceled.

The drawings were objected to as indicated in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. In reply, applicants have amended the specification to address the issue noted in the Office Action.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This claim has been canceled, making this rejection moot.

In the Office Action, claims 2-4, 16, 17, and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,822,669 to Okabayashi et al. (hereafter "Okabayashi"). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabayashi in view of U.S. patent no. 5,752,150 to Kato et al. All of the rejected claims have been canceled to secure a quick allowance of this application and not because applicants agree with the rejection. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a divisional or continuation application.

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In view of the above, applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance, since claims 7-15 have been allowed and claims 25-27 correspond to claims 5, 18, and 24 that have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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